

PROCEDURAL AMENDMENT

(Amendment under PCT Article 34)

CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method for recycling thermal insulation material which is formed of vacuum insulation material having inorganic material as a core material and of rigid urethane foam, the method comprising:

a step of pulverizing the thermal insulation material containing the inorganic material and the rigid urethane foam; and

an inorganic material content adjusting step of adjusting a percentage of inorganic material content in mixed material consisting of the thermal insulation material pulverized, the inorganic material content adjusting step including a step of measuring the percentage of inorganic material content in the mixed material pulverized.

2. (Amended) The method for recycling the thermal insulation material according to claim 1 further comprising:

a step of pulverizing second thermal insulation material exclusively consisting of rigid urethane foam,

wherein

the inorganic material content adjusting step is a step of mixing the pulverized thermal insulation material containing the vacuum insulation material with the second thermal insulation material pulverized, based on a measured percentage of inorganic material content, thereby obtaining the mixed material with a prescribed percentage value of inorganic material content.

3. (Amended) The method for recycling the thermal insulation material according to claim 1, wherein

the inorganic material content adjusting step is a step of obtaining the mixed material with a prescribed percentage value of inorganic material content by sorting out and removing the inorganic material contained in the pulverized thermal insulation material, based on the measured percentage of inorganic material content.

4. The method for recycling the thermal insulation material according to claim 3, wherein

the sorting operation is air sorting which makes use of difference in specific gravity between the inorganic material and the rigid urethane foam.

5. The method for recycling the thermal insulation

material according to claim 3, wherein

the sorting operation is classification which makes use of difference in grain size between the pulverized inorganic material and the pulverized rigid urethane foam.

6. The method for recycling the thermal insulation material according to claim 1 further comprising:

a separating step of cutting out the vacuum insulation material and the rigid urethane foam as an integral unit from a main body of a refrigerator.

7. The method for recycling the thermal insulation material according to claim 1 further comprising:

a waste material processing step of processing the mixed material obtained in the inorganic material adjusting step into a recyclable form.

8. The method for recycling the thermal insulation material according to claim 7, wherein

the waste material processing step is a step of molding a particle board, and includes an operation to pressurize the mixed material.

9. The method for recycling the thermal insulation

material according to claim 7, wherein

the waste material processing step is a step of producing vacuum insulation material, and includes:

an operation to powder the mixed material; and

a step of sealing the powder thus obtained into a coating member under a reduced pressure.

10. The method for recycling the thermal insulation material according to claim 1 further comprising:

a discriminating step of reading an inorganic material weight value and a rigid urethane foam weight value from a discriminating means owned by a refrigerator, wherein

the inorganic material content adjusting step makes use of the inorganic material weight value and the rigid urethane foam weight value in order to adjust the percentage of inorganic material content in the mixed material.

11. The method for recycling the thermal insulation material according to claim 1, wherein

the inorganic material is a glass fiber assembly.

12. A recycled article made by recycling thermal insulation material which is formed of vacuum insulation

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material having inorganic material as a core material and of rigid urethane foam, wherein

mixed material which is formed of the vacuum insulation material and the rigid urethane foam has an inorganic material content that is adjusted to be not less than 0.01% nor more than 99.99%.

13. The recycled article according to claim 12, wherein the article is a particle board which is made by pressurizing and molding the mixed material.

14. The recycled article according to claim 12, wherein the article is vacuum insulation material which is made by sealing a powder consisting of the mixed material into a coating member under a reduced pressure.

15. The recycled article according to claim 14, wherein the powder contains inorganic material of not less than 0.1% nor more than 20%.

16. (Amended) A refrigerator containing thermal insulation material which is formed of vacuum insulation material having inorganic material as a core material and of rigid urethane foam, the refrigerator comprising:

a discriminating means, the discriminating means

recording information that the thermal insulation material contains the vacuum insulation material, a weight value of the inorganic material and a weight value of the rigid urethane foam.

17. (Deleted)

18. The refrigerator according to claim 16, wherein the discriminating means is provided on a surface of an outer box of the refrigerator.

19. The refrigerator according to claim 16, wherein the discriminating means is a medium capable of electronic reading.